

LARRABEE & HINGSTON COMPANY, LUMBER DRYING SHED
19 Howley Street
Peabody
Essex County
Massachusetts

HAER No. MA-149-B

HAER
MASS
S-PEAB,
2B-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
LARRABEE & HINGSTON COMPANY, LUMBER DRYING SHED

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Location: 19 Howley Street
Peabody
Essex County, Massachusetts

USGS Quadrangle: Salem, MA UTM: 19.342400.4709500

Date of Construction: ca. 1903-ca. 1914

Engineer/Architect: Unknown

Present Owner: Larrabee & Hingston Company

Present Occupant: Vacant

Present Use: Not in use

Significance: The Larrabee & Hingston Company Lumber Drying Shed (ca. 1903-ca. 1914) is significant for its association with Peabody's most important historic industry, the tanning of animal hides. The Lumber Drying Shed is an important component of a support/service industry complex associated with the area tanning industry. Larrabee & Hingston, founded in 1931, was a custom builder of wooden tanning vessels and was the last such facility in the Northeast when it closed in 1997.

Project Information Statement:

Stop & Shop's project to construct a commercial building requires a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District (Corps). After review of plans, the Corps and Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Office (MASHPO) determined that the proposed undertaking will have an adverse effect through demolition of a National Register-eligible historic property. The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) entered into by Stop & Shop, the MASHPO, and the Corps includes recordation of the Larrabee & Hingston Company to Historic American Engineering Record standards prior to demolition.

Virginia H. Adams, Senior Architectural Historian
Matthew A. Kierstead, Industrial Historian
Mary Kate Harrington, Architectural Historian
The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.
210 Lonsdale Avenue
Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860

PART I DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

The Larrabee & Hingston Company Lumber Drying Shed is located immediately south of, and across the access road from the Main Shop Building (HAER No. MA-149-A). The Lumber Drying Shed consists of three standing, connected, vacant, wood-framed, red shingle-sided components: the main shed, the rear shed, and the boiler house, all of which are built on fieldstone foundations. The main shed (ca. 1903), located just south of the access road, is a 60-by-20-ft, two-story, five-bay, shed-roofed structure with five large, trimmed, square openings in the top floor, and five corresponding shingled-over openings on the first floor, the eastern-most two of which have small single-pane, double-hung sash replacement windows. Entrance to the building is through a door at the top of a stairway at the northeast corner. A small ventilation opening is located high on the west wall, and a cove molding marks the top of the walls. The first floor interior is divided into a 25-by-20-ft east room, and a 40-by-35-ft west room, and the second floor is an open, 60-by-20-ft space. The rear shed (ca. 1914), is a 35-by-20-ft, two-story structure built onto the south side of the first, with a shallower sloping shed roof. The second story on the south side deeply overhangs the first, a configuration which results in a sheltered first story loading dock. Large first and second story sliding wood doors are arranged in line vertically. The first and second floor plans are open. The third component, attached to the southeast corner of the main building, is the drying kiln boiler house, a small, 8-by-8-ft, single-story structure with a short chimney and an attached 6-by-6-ft oil tank shed.

PART II HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Larrabee & Hingston Company Lumber Drying Shed structure was constructed while the property was under the ownership of Aaron F. Clark's Lumber Yard. The main shed, constructed ca. 1903, and the attached rear shed, constructed ca. 1914, were used for the drying of lumber. The third component to this structure is the drying kiln boiler house which generated heat used to dry freshly cut lumber. Heat generated by an oil-fired boiler was circulated through the building by manipulating the draft by opening and closing windows. Fresh lumber was hung on horizontal racks, and the heat circulated through the building, driving moisture out of the wood and curing it prior to cutting and milling for assembly into tanning vessels in the Main Shop Building.

PART III SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Engineering Drawings

None located.

B. Historic Views

None located.

C. Interviews

Buckley, Steven, former Larrabee & Hingston employee and Hingston family member. Interview by Matthew Kierstead, 28 June 1995, Peabody. Tape recording on file at The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc., Pawtucket, RI.

Hingston, Steven, Shop Superintendent, Larrabee & Hingston Company. Conversations with Matthew Kierstead, 28 and 30 June 1995, Peabody, MA.

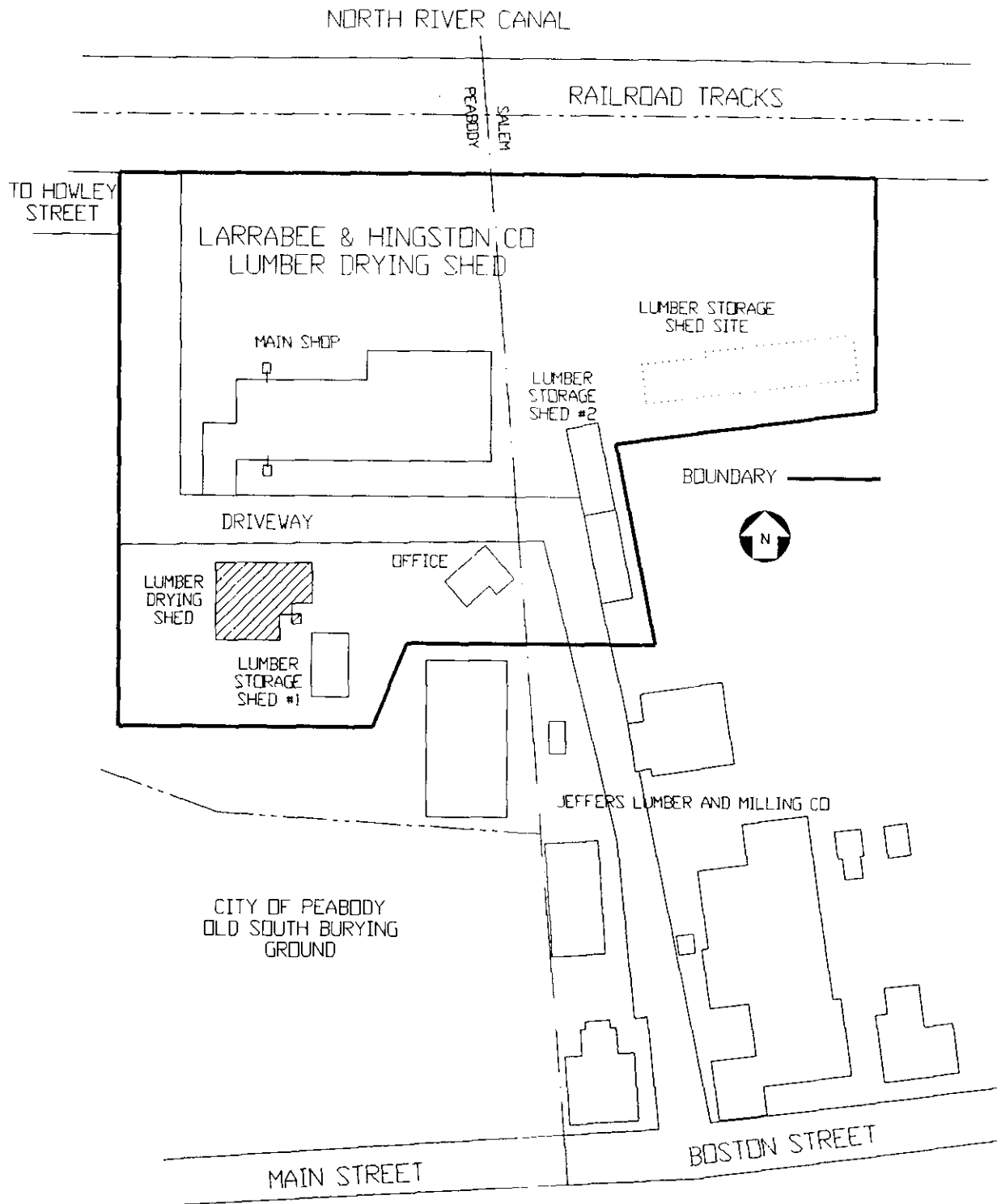
Jeffers, John, Owner, Jeffers Lumber and Millwork. Conversation with Matthew Kierstead, 28 July, 1995, Salem, MA.

D. Bibliography

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Company, New York
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for the Town/City of Peabody, 1872, 1892, 1897, 1903, 1906, 1907, 1914, 1920, 1929, 1938, 1949, 1957, 1968.

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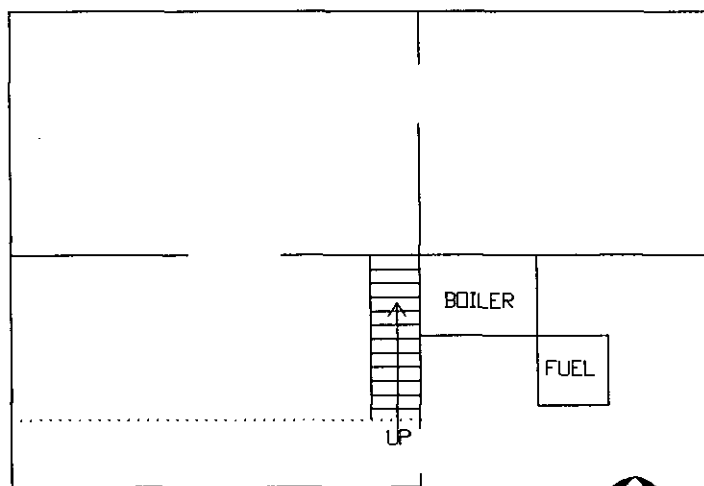
Site Plan



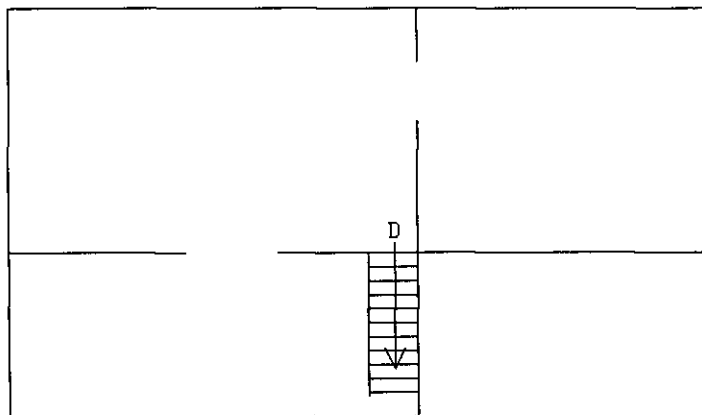
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Existing Floor Plan, 1998

LARRABEE & HINGSTON
LUMBER DRYING SHED



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



2ND FLOOR PLAN